



**SECOND MEETING OF THE
2018 BUDGET COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
October 10, 2017
9:00 am**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present: Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Chair Councillor Amanda Collucci, Vice-Chair (9:28 am) Mayor Frank Scarpitti(ex-officio) Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong Councillor Alex Chiu Councillor Karen Rea (9:17 am) Regrets: Councillor Don Hamilton Regional Councillor Jim Jones	Staff Present: Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Brian Lee, Acting Commissioner of Development Services Catherine Conrad, City Solicitor Joel Lustig, Treasurer Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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The Budget Committee convened at 9:08 am with Councillor Kanapathi presiding as Chair.

Councillor Kanapathi, Budget Chief welcomed the Committee to the second Budget Committee meeting.

1. 2018 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning provided the 2018 Budget presentation.

a. 2018 Budget Process and Communication Plan

A Committee Member inquired how the community is engaged in the budget process. Staff advised that throughout the year the public's input is gathered from conducting surveys and from customer comment cards. The feedback is then considered when creating the budget.

b. 2018 Proposed Capital Budget

Infrastructure Investment

A Committee Member inquired about the proposed 0.5% infrastructure investment in the 2018 Budget. Staff clarified that the proposed 0.5% infrastructure investment in the 2018 Budget is incremental to the 2017 approved 0.5% infrastructure investment. Staff will evaluate and report on the need for an infrastructure investment annually. Staff are continuously looking at strategies to mitigate future tax increases for the infrastructure investment.

Flood Control Program

A Committee Members asked if a subsidy program is included in the 2018 budget for the installation of backflow valves and sump pumps. Staff advised that a backwater valve and sump pump subsidy program for high risk areas will be developed. The funding source for the program will be stormwater fees.

Expedited Park Development Program

The Committee asked for a list of parks by year that have been in-service since 2014 through the Expedited Park Development Program. Staff advised that the list will be provided.

Park Washrooms

A Committee Member inquired if there are plans to put permanent washrooms at all City Parks.

Staff advised that the City has a washroom policy for its parks. The policy allows permanent washroom at community parks, and portable washrooms at parks that have sports fields. Staff will review the policy and report back before Spring 2018.

Museum Park and Park to be Built Behind the Flato Building

A Committee Member asked for a status update on the park being built beside the museum and on the park being built behind the Flato Building. Staff will look into the status and timelines of these parks and report back to Councillor Rea.

Wismer Park Pavilion and Washrooms

A Committee Member asked when the Wismer Park Pavilion and Washrooms will be built. Staff advised that the park design will be completed in 2018 and construction will start soon after. The park is anticipated to be completed in 2019.

Milliken Mills Library

A Committee Member asked when and if the Milliken Mills Library will be expanded. Staff advised that an assessment and decision will be made after the new Aaniin Community Centre opens.

New Parks and By-Law Staff

A Committee Member asked if the City has budgeted for new Parks and By-law Staff. Staff advised there is incremental growth budget for new parks part-time Staff. If *The Strong Communities Through Affordable housing Act*, Bill 140 is passed, it is anticipated that the City will need to hire one full time by-law officer and two full time fire positions.

The Committee noted that it would not consider increasing the number of By-law Officers for existing enforcement without more information, like the workload of the officers, the volume of complaints, and how City's officer numbers compare with other municipalities.

Parking Fines

A Committee Member asked staff to review parking fines. Staff advised that parking fines were reviewed a few years ago and were found to be consistent with other municipalities' rates. Staff will confirm if the City's parking fines are still comparable with other municipalities.

Moved by Councillor Rea
Seconded by Regional Councillor Armstrong

That the Budget Committee take a 10 minute break.

Carried

The Committee took a break at 11:18 am and reconvened at 11:28 am.

c. Deputation

1. Dr. Ernest Light provided a deputation requesting the City to consider a ban for 5 years to increase salaries for Staff earning \$100k and more, and to establish maximum wage or salary ceiling in order to mitigate the property tax rate increase.

d. 2018 Proposed Operating Budget

Bill 148 – Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act

The Committee discussed the *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, Bill 148*. The Committee requested staff to explore different options to address the financial impact and report back to Committee on the matter. Scenarios that could be considered include: increasing user fees to cover the financial impact; and splitting the impact between increasing user fees and increasing taxes.

The Committee discussed staff's recommendation to provide a cost of living adjustment equivalent to the Non-Union Staff to part-time employees who are currently earning more than \$14 per hour. Staff explained that increasing the minimum wage to \$14 creates a grid compression issue. Staff's plan is to undertake a complete review of part time positions and the respective pay grid. Committee was unsure if the cost of living increase should be provided prior to conducting a full analysis of the part time pay scale and position types. Staff outlined that the financial impact of providing a cost of living adjustment to part-time employees who are currently earning more than \$14 per hour is approximately \$130k.

Committee requested additional information on the \$2.5M financial impact from Bill 148:

- Breakdown of the \$2.5M financial impact between summer students and on-going part-time staff;
- Breakdown of the \$2.5M financial impact between programs and seasonal work such as park maintenance
- Profile on employees who fill part-time jobs

Committee asked if the Province was looking at excluding municipalities from this legislation based on its discussions with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Staff were not aware of any changes or exemptions to the proposed legislation.

e. Next Steps

The Committee reviewed the next steps. The Regional Councillors requested that the *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, Bill 148* not be discussed at the October 19, 2017 Budget Committee meeting until the Regional Councillors on the Committee are in attendance, as they will be coming from a Regional Council meeting scheduled to be held that morning before the meeting.

2. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Regional Councillor Armstrong

Moved By Councillor Collucci

That the Budget Committee adjourn at 11:50 pm.